(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per existing guidelines, the area of operation of LPG distributorship in the plains can be extended upto 15 kms. in case the distributorship remains economically unviable even after two years of operation. In the case of the Hilly areas, area of operation can be extended upto 50 kms.

In order to release more LPG connections in hilly areas, it is planned to clear:

(i) the entire waiting list as on 1.4.1995 in areas above 4500 ft. altitude during 1995-96;

(ii) 50% of the waiting list as on 1.4.1995 in areas between 2000 ft. and 4500 ft. during 1995-96 and the remaining 50% during 1996-97.

Tie-ups of ONGC Ltd. and OIL with multinational companies

1391. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Limited and OIL plan to have tie-ups with multinational companies in the country;

(b) the details of the tie-ups proposed and the terms and conditions of the agreements;

(c) whether the performance of ONGC Limited and OIL is likely to be improved as a result of these tie-ups; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient terms and conditions are as follows:

—sharing of risk by ONGC/OIL in the Joint Venture from the date of signing of the contract with participating interest of between 25 per cent and 40 —per cent.

— The possibility of a seismic option in the first phase of the exploration period

— No signature|production bonus| royalty|cess payment

— Progressive fiscal regime

—No ring fencing of blocks for corporate tax purposes

- Freedom to Joint venture for marketing gas

— Purchase of the Joint venture's share of oil at international price

- - Provision for assignment

(c) and (d) It is expected that the joint ventures would augment the exploration efforts of the National Oil companies: venture out into hither to unexplored areas and provide access to latest technology.

Delivery of underweight cylinders in the capital

1392. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several LPG dealers in the capital have been recently found to be delivering undrweight cylinders to consumers;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;